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McGeorge Bundy



9 October 1965

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INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

ALLEGED SHOOTDOWN OF US AIRCRAFT OVER
CHINESE TERRITORY ON 5 OCTOBER 1965

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: DEC 2000

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE
Office of Current Intelligence

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SC No. 11387/65

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
9 October 1965

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Alleged Shootdown of US Aircraft Over
Chinese Territory on 5 October 1965

1. An intensive analysis of all available material concerning the events of 5 October does not provide a conclusive answer as to whether a US aircraft was brought down in Chinese territory as Peking has claimed.

2. The only US plane unaccounted for on 5 October was an F-105 (Thunderchief), which was last observed as it completed its bomb run over the target area at Kep. The pilot reported that he was turning and heading to the southeast. The time was reported as 1200, 28 minutes before the time at which Peking claimed to have shot down an intruding aircraft (all times local Vietnam time). If the F-105 (Thunderchief) pilot, for whatever reason, headed northeast immediately at normal speed he would have been well north of Nanning, which is 144 miles from Kep, by the time of the claimed shoot-down.

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)-25Yrs

3. [REDACTED]

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)-25Yrs

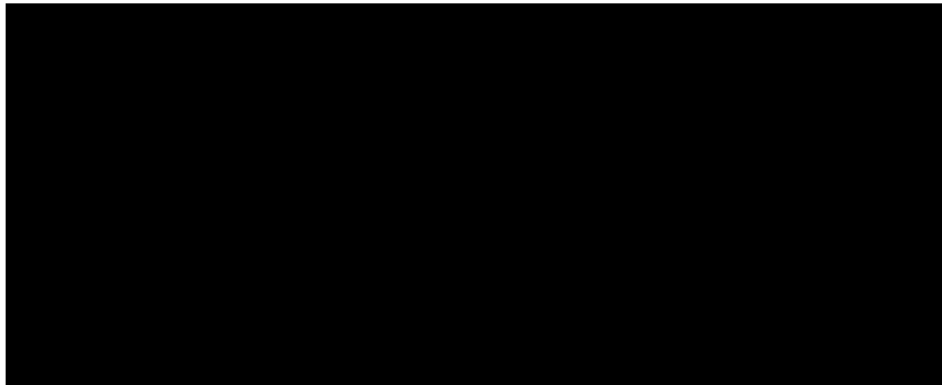
4. [REDACTED]


EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)-25Yrs

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EO 12958 3.4(h)(1)>25Yrs



5. US aircraft were in fact near the Vietnam/China border area on high altitude patrol at the time:  EO 12958 3.4(h)(1)>25Yrs

6. In view of the above, it is clear that the only plane which the Chinese could have shot down on 5 October over their territory was the missing F-105 (Thunderchief). Since the course of the F-105 (Thunderchief), following its departure from the Kep area, cannot be established, it is not possible to determine where the F-105 (Thunderchief) actually went down. This will be true even if the Chinese should display its wreckage, because the plane might have come down in North Vietnam and been brought onto Chinese territory to buttress the Chicom propaganda campaign. EO 12958 3.4(h)(1)>25Yrs

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It is also true that in the past the Chinese Communists have never claimed a shootdown of intruding aircraft without actually having done so.

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